

2078
S Y L L A B U S

OF A

C O U R S E

OF

RHETORICAL LECTURES

IN WHICH THE

Art of READING and SPEAKING

THE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

With Elegance and Propriety,

Will be laid down

ON PRINCIPLES ENTIRELY NEW;

AND

Illustrated in a Manner adapted to every Capacity.

By J O H N R I C E,

Author of an Introduction to the Art of Reading
with Energy and Propriety *,

AND

Editor of Milton's Paradise Lost, on a new Plan,
For the Use of Schools *.

* To be published, in a few Days, for Messrs. J. and
R. Tonson in the Strand.

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The Course to consist of Nine Lectures.

LECT. I. **O**F the Study of Rhetoric, and the Cultivation of Eloquence in general.—Its ancient and modern State compared, and its different Utility in the past Times and the present, considered.—Of the Study of the English Language.

LECT. II. Of the Elements and Construction of Languages in general.—Of the Difference between *written* and *oral* Language.—Their respective Elements distinguished, and their separate Use explained.—Various Errors pointed out, into which Grammarians and Philologists have fallen, for Want of considering the proper Relations between Types and Sounds.—Of the simple Sounds and Modes of Articulation in *English*.

LECT. III. Of the Formation of Syllables, and the Accentuation of English Words.—The Defects of the present Method pointed out; and another less exceptionable proposed,

LECT. IV. Of Speaking and Reading in general with Elegance and Propriety.—In what Propriety consists.—Illustrated by various Examples from the best Rhetoricians.

LECT. V. Of the particular Use of Emphasis.—1st. As it regards the Sense of what is spoken or written, and is addressed to the Understanding.—2d. As it respects the Pathos of Discourse, and appeals to the Passions.—Exemplifications of both.

LECT. VI.

LECT. VI. Of the particular Use and Application of *Pause, Tone and Gesture*, in Reading or Speaking. 1st. Of the *proper*.—2d. Of the *pathetic*.—3d. The *graceful*.

LECT. VII. Of the different Modes of reciting the various Kinds of literary Composition.—Exemplified in Reading the narrative, descriptive, argumentative, persuasive and declamatory Species of Writing.

LECT. VIII. Of the Numbers and Measures of Verse; and in what Manner the general Rules for reciting prosaic Compositions, are applied to the various Kinds of Poetry.

LECT. IX. Of the Oratory of the Senate, Bar and Pulpit; and of Theatrical Declamation, or the Art of reciting dramatic Compositions.

T H E S E L E C T U R E S

Are proposed to be publickly read in February next, to such Gentlemen and Ladies as may think proper to encourage the Author's Design by their Subscription.

The Terms, One Guinea.

Each Ticket will admit one Gentleman and Lady, or two Ladies.

Due Notice of particular Time and Place will be previously given.

SUBSCRIPTIONS taken in by Messrs. J. and R. TONSON, and by Messrs. BECKET and DE HONDT, Booksellers, in the Strand; by Messrs. DAVIS and REYMERS, in Holbourn; and by Mr. HENDERSON, at the Royal Exchange.

T O T H E P U B L I C.

THE Profession of the Lecturer having directed his Attention, for some Years past, almost solely to the Pronunciation of the English Language, and the most graceful and emphatical Methods of repeating the Works of English Writers, he hath been naturally led, in the Course of his Application, to the Discovery of the great Defects of all the Grammars and Dictionaries hitherto published, with regard to the Orthoëpy of our Tongue. To remedy these Defects, therefore, he hath been induced to compile a Grammar and Dictionary* on a new Plan; the following Observations on the Use and Expediency of which, may serve at the same Time as an Apology, if any be deemed requisite, for the Design of the above *Lectures*.

* The Grammar in one Volume Octavo; the Dictionary one Volume Quarto.

OBSER-

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

EXPEDIENCY AND USE

OF A

Rhetorical Grammar and Dictionary.

ON A NEW PLAN.

AFTER the popular Measures which have been taken by a Gentleman of a neighbouring Kingdom, to set forth the Difficulties of attaining the true Pronunciation of the English Tongue, it is presumed needless to expatiate on the Necessity of some Method to facilitate its Attainment. The Scheme for publishing a Rhetorical Grammar and Dictionary, drawn up by the same Hand, may perhaps be supposed to have superseded every Project of the like Nature, that may have suggested itself to others. And, indeed, if Mr. Sheridan had carried his Design into Execution, with the same Ardour as he expressed in displaying its Utility, and soliciting Encouragement, it is possible, however defective his Work had proved, it might, for some Time at least, have prevented others from entering on the same Career.

But if the apparent Delay, in the Prosecution of that Writer's Scheme, be not a sufficient Reason to conclude he hath dropt his Pursuit; certain it is, that

the very capital Errors into which he hath fallen, with regard to the most essential Parts of Pronunciation, are more than sufficient to convince us, that if he proceeds on the Principles he hath laid down, he must necessarily fall short of the Object in View.

It is from the Conviction of the Insufficiency of Mr. Sheridan's Scheme, that the Author of the Present is induced to offer a different, and, he flatters himself, a more effectual one, to the Public.

As Mr. Sheridan, however, assures the noble Lord, to whom he dedicates his Plan, that the Whole of it had been examined and approved by some of the ablest Heads in these Realms, it may be justly thought incumbent on the Projector of a later Scheme, to point out the particular Defects of the former.

The first Defect in Mr. S's Plan is, that it is confined solely to the Orthoëpy, or the Pronunciation of the Words of our Language; whereas the Rules for the Formation of Words, and the Construction of Sentences, would not only have made the Work more extensively useful; but they are in themselves so intimately connected with those of Speech, that it is hardly possible to separate them. Add to this, that were it practicable to teach the *Pronunciation* of a Language without its *Idiom*, it would be of very little Use to any one who should be desirous of Speaking with Propriety; which no Person could do, if ignorant of the Manner of forming Derivatives from Radicals, and the other orthographical Rules of Grammar. For it cannot be doubted, that the knowing *what to say*, must be greatly assistant to the Learner in acquiring the *Manner* in which it ought to be *said*.

It is for this Reason that the Grammar, now projected, will not only contain the necessary Rules for the oral Utterance of English Words, agreeable to the politest Mode of Speaking; but will also comprehend all those which are necessary to enable the Learner both to speak and write with Propriety and Elegance; in Conformity to the most approved Models of literary Stile and Composition.

The *second* Defect is, that Mr. S. in proposing to ascertain the Number of simple Sounds in our Language, falls into the Error of all our Grammarians, in imputing Sounds to *Consonants*: Whereas, if we abstract the Consonants from the Vowels, there is an Appulse of the Organs in our Efforts to pronounce the former, sometimes wholly precluding Sound, and always in a greater or less Degree suppressing it.

Hence arises a Confusion that greatly bewilders the Learner; as that Mode of Articulation is imputed to a single Letter, which belongs only to a Combination of two or three. Thus he tells us that *c* hath sometimes the Sound of *sh*, as in *social*; that *s* hath the same Sound of *sh*, in *passion*; and again, that *t* hath the like Sound, in *nation*; but nothing is more plain, than that it is the Letters *ci*, *si*, and *ti*, that here contribute to the Mode of Articulation usually signified by *sh*; for he will not find that either *c*, *s*, or *t*, have the like Effect before every other Vowel.

It appears by this, that Mr. S. is yet to learn that Consonants are not the Symbols of *Sounds*, but of particular Modes of Utterance; for notwithstanding we give Names (*i. e.* apply articulate Sounds) to those Symbols, in order that we may orally teach their Form and Use in Orthography, yet *b*, *c*, *d*, *f*, &c. are no more Symbols of the Sounds *be*, *ce*, *de*, *ef*, than they are of *ba*, *ca*, *da*, *af*, or *ob*, *oc*, *od*, *fo*.

Nay, the *Vowels* themselves, though Symbols of *Sounds*, are not, strictly speaking, the Symbols of *articulate* Sounds. A Sound cannot properly be called *articulate*, without some Appulse of the Organs, by which its Articulation is made and determined. But in the Pronunciation of the Vowels, the Passage of the Mouth is open and free; their Utterance consisting only of a forcible Expiration of Breath, which may be indefinitely long or short, and may be effected by many of the brute Creation, or by any Wind Instrument; so that unless a Vowel be joined to some Consonant, it is no more an articulate Sound, than the Tones of a Haut-boy or a Flagellet.

Again, Mr. S. shews no less Want of Ear than of Attention, in treating this Subject; for, admitting the Vowels to be in some Degree articulate, he mistakes the several Modes of Articulation imputed to them; omitting the most remarkable Sounds of some, and making a Distinction without a Difference in others.

In the present Scheme, the Number of simple Sounds and Modes of Articulation in our Language, will be ascertained in a Manner strictly and philosophically true; and its Pronunciation taught, not by applying constant and invariable Sounds to mere arbitrary and equivocal Types, but by shewing the Use of those Types in their Application to Sounds. The Necessity of this Method, though contrary to what hath been hitherto pursued, will appear evident, on reflecting, that we have no less than sixteen distinct Sounds in our Language, to be expressed by a third of that Number of Types. Hence it is plain, that either one Type must serve to indicate several Sounds, or that a Number of such simple Sounds must be denoted by Combinations of Types. Indeed, the latter might answer the Purpose, provided the same Combinations of Letters constantly served to denote the same Sounds. But the true State of the Case is, that the same Combinations do not, any more than the single Types, always serve to denote the same Sounds. On the contrary, one and the same Sound is frequently denoted by various Types and Combinations; as the same Type or Combination is variously used to denote different Sounds.

To instance only a few of these Irregularities: The Letter *U* serves, not only to denote at least three different distinct Sounds, but those Sounds are also denoted by other Types and Combinations. That of this Vowel in *Bull*, is denoted by *oo*, and *ou*, as in *Wool*, *could*, &c.

That in *Cull*, by *o*, *ea*, *e*, and *i*, as in *won*, *Pearl*, *her*, *stir*, &c.

That in *futile*, by *eu*, *ue*, *ew*, *ou*, *ieu* and *eau*, as in *feud*, *Rue*, *Cube*, *new*, *you*, *adieu*, *Beauty*.

A not only denotes several different Sounds, as in *Hat*, *hard*, *Hate*, *what*, *Hall*, but that in *hard* is denoted also by *au*, as in *laugh*:

That

That in *Hate* by *ei*, *ai*, as in *Reign*, *fail*;

That in *what* by *o*, as in *not*, *hot*, &c.

And that in *Hall* by *o*, *au*, *ou*, *oa*, as in *absolve*, *maul*,
ought, *Groat*.

O is not only used to denote three different Sounds, as in *go*, *what*, *not*, but that in *go* is indicated also by *ae*, *oa*, *ou*, *oo*, *ow*, as in *Foe*, *Goat*, *though*, *Door*, *know*.

That in *wha*, by *oo*, *ou*, as in *Noon*, *Soup*.

That in *not*, by *a*, as in *what*, *Swan*, &c.

E usually denotes two Sounds, as in *met*, *me*.

That in *met* is denoted also by *ea*, as in *Health*, *Wealth*, &c.

That in *me*, by *ie*, *ei*, *ee*, *ea*, as in *Field*, *conceive*, *mect*, *Pease*.

Of the two Sounds usually denoted by *I*, as in *Fight* and *Fit*, the former is likewise indicated by *y*, *uy*, *ie*, and *oi*, as in *why*, *buy*, *tie*, *boil*; the latter by *e*, *o*, *u*, and *ui*, as in *yes*, *Women*, *busy*, *build*.

Thus we see, that both the single Vowels, and their Combinations, are so irregularly used, and so frequently substituted for each other, in applying them to Sounds; that the Difficulty of attaining their Use, by applying the Sounds to the Types, is almost insurmountable.

Nor is the State of our Consonants much better than our Vowels: For, though we have more Types in Proportion to the Number of different Modes of Articulation denoted by them, yet we have some Types that commonly express two different Modes, as *C* and *G*, while we have others that are, in this Respect, superfluous, as *X*, which always stands for *Z*, *gs*, or *ks*. On the other hand, we have five Modes of Articulation that have no single Types to denote them at all; but are indicated by arbitrary and various Combinations; such is the Mode denoted by *ch* and *ti*, in *Charity*, *Question*; the two different Modes denoted by *th*, in *Cloathe* and *South*, or *those* and *thin*; also the Mode denoted by *sh*, *ch*, *fi*, *ti*, and *ci*, in *shun*, *Chaise*, *Passion*, *Nation*, *social*. Also that denoted by *s*, and *si*, in *Measure*, *Hosier*, *Confusion*, &c.

For

For these Reasons, it is proposed to consider the Nature of Speech, independent of the Custom of former Grammarians, and not only to give a *literal* Alphabet for the Orthography, but an *oral* Alphabet for the Orthoëpy of our Language; and to shew how the elementary Sounds and Modes of Articulation are varied and combined, in the Formation of Words in Speaking, as the Letters and Syllables are combined in the Formation of Words that are written.

The third Defect in Mr. S's Scheme is, his total Misapprehension of the Nature and Use of Accent in the Pronunciation of English Words.

The principal Use of the Accent, he says, is to distinguish Words from Syllables, and from each other; so that in English we always hear as many Words as Accents, no Word having more than one Accent, unless, indeed, some of the *longer* Polysyllables, which have *two*, though one much weaker than the other. This Mr. S. lays down as an *invariable* and *fundamental* Rule in our Language.

Now it is the invariable Custom, in pronouncing all the modern European Languages, to utter each Word separate and distinct from each other, which cannot be done without occasioning a short Interval of Time between each Word; and this is what distinguishes Words from Syllables. Again, the Accent is in most modern Languages invariably and justly laid upon the most significant Syllable or Syllables of the Word, as the Emphasis is laid on the most important Word in the Sentence: And this is held to be its chief Use. Mr. S. indeed, asserts that the Accent constitutes the *Essence* of a Word; but the Essence of a Word, if spoken, certainly lies in some Sort of Connection between its Sense and Sound, and not merely in laying indiscriminately a greater Stress upon one Syllable than all the rest. This being considered, the Reader may judge whether Mr. S's invariable Rule, of giving but one Accent to a Syllable, be true or false, by the following List, which might be increased an hundred fold.

Wora

Words of four Syllables.

Agricúlture
Anabaptíst
Barricádó
Coadjútór
Cómprehen'sive
Córrespon'dent
Dis'continúe
Intermix'ture
Omniprésént

Words of three.

Avenúe
Appetít
Artichóke
Authoríz
Brigantine
Counterminé
Circumscribē
Disfallow
Domineér

Words of two.

Backbitē
Backslidē
Convóy
Compóund
Colléague
Dryshód
Dewlap
Earthquake
Enlign

So much, however, hath been said concerning this Mistake in my *Introduction to the Art of Reading*, that I shall insist but little on it here; it being there clearly demonstrated, by numerous Examples and Illustrations, to be destructive of all Precision in the Pronunciation of the English Language in particular, as well as of the Propriety and Energy of Speech in general.

It is proposed, therefore, in the Rhetorical Grammar now projected, to retain the general and natural Practice of European Nations, in the Pronunciation of the *living* Languages; and not to adopt any arbitrary Law, deduced from the dubious Customs of the Ancients, in the Pronunciation of the *dead* Languages. To this End the two Modes, in which we naturally accent or lay a Stress of Voice on particular Syllables, will be adapted to Use; the one being evidently a *quick*, and the other a *slow*, Method of Articulation; and very properly indicated by the *acute* and *grave* accentual Types of the Greeks.

Thus, in the above List of Words, the Reader will see the *short* and quick Mode distinguished by the former Accent, and the long or *slow* one marked by the latter. At the same Time an useful Remark may be made

made with regard to the *Seat* of the Accent, which Mr. S. supposes of so much Importance ; and, on Account of which, he so much abuses our Dictionary Makers : This is, that the Syllable on which the acute Accent is laid, usually ends with a Consonant, and the *Grave* generally with a Vowel. Our Lexicographers, therefore, were not so much to blame for misplacing the Accent in *general*, as for not distinguishing between the long and short Mode of Accentuation. And yet Mr. Sheridan himself, though sensible of the Reality of this Distinction, has equally neglected it. Add to this, that the accentual Type belongs to the Syllable or articulate Voice, and not to any single Letter : It is a Matter of Indifference therefore, whether it be placed on a Vowel or Consonant.

It will be shewn, also, that the Limitation of Polysyllables (which are all compound or derivative Words) to *one* Accent, and the Want of making a practical Distinction between the long and the short Mode of Accentuation, throw the greatest Stumbling-block in the Way of Foreigners, desirous of learning our Tongue. This cannot be doubted of, if we reflect on the great Affinity there subsists between the learned Languages, and most European Tongues, as well as the Analogy and Affinity subsisting solely between the latter. Hence it is, that the Meaning of Words, significantly accented in any Language, is frequently recognized by the Learned, and even by the Illiterate, of other Nations ; a Circumstance that encourages the Learner, and sometimes assists him in the Pronunciation. Whereas, if Words were so pronounced, that the whole Stress of the Voice should lie on one Syllable, and the rest be precipitately hurried over, the Whole might be totally unintelligible. Mr. S. indeed, says, that if the *Accent* be laid in its proper Place, the other Syllables in a Word may be pronounced as rapidly as we please ; for we are so familiar to the Sound of the Word, that we know what is meant.

But is this the Case with *Foreigners*, whom he intended to instruct by this Method ? Thus, we see, Mr. S. treats of Accent as the readiest Means to familiarize
 Foreigners

Foreigners and Provincials with the true Sounds of English Words; and is obliged to confess it is useful only to such as are already *familiar* with those Sounds.

The Neglect of making a Distinction in the *Mode* of the Accent, is not of less Consequence; for if the Words be properly divided into Syllables, the exact Sound of each Syllable pointed out, and the Accents duly marked, we might defy any Person, Foreigner or Provincial, who is only Master of the several simple Sounds and Modes of Articulation, to pronounce such Words wrong. Now the true Method of dividing Words into Syllables, and the Use of the Letters in any Language, are to be acquired only by being taught the Modes of Articulation signified by the Letters, and their Effects in the Formation of articulate Sounds.

From these Considerations arises another Defect in Mr. S's Scheme. He proposes to enable Persons, by certain Typographical Marks, which they may learn in an Hour's Time, to pronounce Words at Sight. But of this I am very confident, that if Mr. S. doth not first take a more effectual Way to instruct Foreigners in the elementary Sounds of our Language, than he hath intimated in his Plan, it will be impossible for them to pronounce English Words with Propriety at Sight, however easily his Typographical Marks may be comprehended or retained. Letters are, as I have shewn, even in one and the same Language, very equivocal in their Combination to express articulate Sounds; the Modes of Articulation applied to those of the same Form, are in different Languages also still more different; so that without being first taught, by oral Instruction, or Example, the Use of the written Alphabet in denoting the simple Sounds and Modes of Articulation peculiar to a Language, I will venture to assert, that a just Pronunciation at Sight is absolutely impracticable. And that Mr. S's Method of conveying such Instruction with regard to the English, by imputing Sounds to single Letters, or even Combinations of Letters, is insufficient, I have endeavoured to shew in my Remarks on the second Defect of his Scheme.

On the whole, what Mr. S. hath advanced in his Lectures and Dissertations on this Subject, instead of superseding the present Design, serves evidently to prove the Necessity of it. For if the Grammarians and Lexicographers have hitherto attended too much to the Orthography and Etymology of Words, without regarding the Orthoëpy or Pronunciation, Mr. S. on the other hand, hath fallen into the opposite Error, and is desirous of sacrificing the Sense of Words altogether to their Sound. Nay, even in his Endeavours to do this, he hath adopted the most vague and arbitrary Rules, derived from doubtful Authorities, instead of those Principles which he might have as easily deduced from *Truth* and *Nature*.

The present Writer proposes to take a different Method from either that of former Grammarians and Lexicographers, or that proposed by Mr. S. His Design being to consider the true Pronunciation of Language, as it always refers to the Sense intended to be conveyed by it; and to adjust the most approved Orthography of our Tongue, with the most polite Mode of its present Orthoëpy.

This he purposes to effect on true philosophical and philological Principles, independent of all arbitrary and foreign Precedents whatever.

After all that can be said, however, in a *Grammar*, the Number of Exceptions to general Rules is so great, that the Utility of a Dictionary, conformable to the same Plan, is equally obvious with that of the *Grammar* itself.

Of the Plan of the *DICTIONARY*, it will be sufficient to observe, that, in the first Place, an Attempt will be made to effect the End proposed by Mr. S. with regard to the true Pronunciation of Words at Sight, though by different, and, it is hoped, more sufficient and practicable Means.

In pointing out the true Pronunciation of Words, therefore, no new-invented Types or Marks will be made Use of, but only such as are commonly used in treating grammatical and philological Subjects.

Again,

Again, the Orthography of Words shall be strictly preserved, even in pointing out the Mode of their Pronunciation; it being a very ineffectual Custom, to attempt to define the Sound of one Syllable, or Combination of Letters, merely by that of a different one. Add to this, that it serves to confound the Learner, both with regard to the Modes of Articulation signified by the Letters, and also with respect to the Orthography of the Word, of which he should never lose Sight. This Method, it is true, is sometimes adopted in our English Grammars, after the Example of some French Grammars and Vocabularies; but is in both much more prejudicial than useful. Thus, when the Sounds of the Words *fire*, *desire*, *divisibility*, &c. are attempted to be expressed by *faweer*, *desaweer*, *deevveeseebeeleetee* *, what Learner is there, either foreign or provincial, that must not be confounded both with regard to the true Sound and Spelling of such Words? That both the Pronunciation and Orthography may, therefore, accompany and serve to elucidate, instead of confounding, each other, it is proposed to exhibit each Word, first, as it is written and ordinarily printed; and next, to reprint the same as divided into Syllables, or distinct articulate Voices with its Accents; the Letters of the Word being at the same Time so diversified by their Type, as to let the Reader see immediately what particular Mode of Articulation belongs to each; which he will be made capable of doing, by a short Intimation of the particular Type used for such Mode of Articulation.

Farther, as this Dictionary is not calculated, as a Glossary, to decypher antiquated Authors, but to serve as a Vocabulary and Lexicon to the English Language, as now in use among the best Speakers and Writers, Care will be taken not to crowd it with exotic, obsolete or technical Terms: From the Insertion of which in our Dictionaries, it might so happen, that a Foreigner should write or speak English in such a Manner, that

* Yet they are so expressed in the British Grammar, published for A. Millar, 1762. See Pages 11, 41, &c.

no Englishman, unacquainted with the learned Languages and Sciences, could possibly understand him; notwithstanding what he should say, might relate to the most common and popular Business of Life.

If any doubt this, they need only turn to Mr. Johnson's Dictionary; where they will find some hundreds of such Words as the following: *Actitation. Adition, Adjument, adminicle, affy, aggerose, aggrate, &c.*

The like Care will be also taken not to swell this Work with uncommon, vulgar or improper *Derivatives*, nor with needless *Authorities* for common Words, whose Use is obvious, and which were never suspected to be unclassical; it being intended to insert only such *Derivatives* as are customary and elegant, and such proper *Authorities* as may be requisite in doubtful Cases that regard the peculiar Idiom of our Tongue. The Want of Propriety in this last particular, viz. the making a Distinction without a Difference in the Use of Words, and giving futile or false Illustrations, is the Subject of great Complaint against the best Works of this Kind. Thus the following, among many others, hath escaped the celebrated Lexicographer just mentioned;

- TO REPREHEND. 1. To reprove, to chide, &c.—
2. To blame, to censure.

Friends *reprehend* him, *reprehend* him there:

For what? For stealing Gaffer Gap's grey Mare.

GAY.

Thus we see the ignorant Blunder of a Country Headborough is here produced as classical Authority.

Not that the present Compiler presumes his Work will be entirely free from Overights and Defects. It is possible that, in avoiding those he has observed in his Predecessors, he may fall into such as they have escaped. It must not be conceived, therefore, that he hath mentioned any, with an invidious Design to depreciate the Labours of others; but only with a View to point out those Particulars in which he imagines there is still Room for Improvement.

